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Baltimore EXILE Partners Announce Results Through April 30
Progress Report for Comprehensive Strategy to Fight Violent Crime

Baltimore, Maryland - Leaders of the local, state and federal agency partners that joined together this year to adopt the Baltimore EXILE strategy met today to discuss the progress of the program, the United States Attorney's Office announced. The first four months of the Baltimore EXILE program have been marked by a significant increase in federal firearms prosecutions, lengthy federal and state prison sentences for numerous defendants prosecuted for firearms-related offenses including median federal prison sentences of about 15.7 years, and successful efforts to take some of Baltimore's most violent repeat offenders off of the streets. The past four months have also seen the early implementation of an extensive outreach and media campaign that will be expanded during the Summer of 2006.

"The Baltimore EXILE team is working together cooperatively and making steady progress in deterring violent crime and removing dangerous criminals from our streets," said United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein.

Baltimore EXILE is a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat gun crime that combines law enforcement efforts, community action and revitalization, and public awareness. The strategy is based on a partnership among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and on the dedication and determination of community activists, educators, and civic and faith-based organizations.

Firearms Prosecutions

Under Baltimore EXILE, the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) are working with other federal agencies to support the mission of our local prosecutors and police by investigating and prosecuting as many significant firearms cases as possible and by using the prospect of federal prosecution to encourage defendants to take prompt guilty pleas to firearms charges in state court.

“FLIP” Letters

Under EXILE, in appropriate cases, once the USAO has determined that a case is ready to be indicted, the USAO sends a letter to the State’s Attorney’s Office for Baltimore City (SAO) advising that the case will proceed federally if the defendant has not pled guilty in state court to the mandatory five-year penalty under state law by a specified deadline. The letter – known as a “Federal Letter of Intent to Prosecute,” or “FLIP” letter – is then shared with the defendant and defense counsel. If the defendant does not plead guilty by the deadline, the defendant is promptly transferred to federal court to face federal prosecution.

The FLIP letter part of EXILE began in early February 2006. During the ensuing three months, 13 FLIP letters were sent to state prosecutors. The following ten of the defendants receiving those letters pled guilty to charges carrying at least the mandatory five-year sentence: Terence Richburg, John Lewis, Gabrielle Desir, Deandre Scott, St. Paul Macklin, Davon Sanford, Antonio Johnson, Noland Cann, Duane Britton and Antonio Pate. Defendant Darryl Mitchell has a deadline that is still pending. Two of the defendants rejected the state pleas and have been indicted or will be indicted in federal court.

Federal Indictments

In addition to the cases resolved through the use of FLIP letters, during the first four months of 2006 the USAO filed 32 indictments charging 33 defendants in Baltimore City firearms cases. These cases were investigated by the ATF and the Baltimore Police Department (BPD). This corresponds to a rate of 96 indictments and 99 defendants for the entire year, and represents a 35% increase in the number of indictments and a 30% increase in the number of defendants charged federally with similar offenses in 2005.

As noted above, 11 of the 13 FLIP letters have been resolved through state pleas or are pending. Combined with the 32 indictments and 33 defendants in Baltimore City firearms cases, the USAO has handled a total of 43 Baltimore City firearms cases involving 44 defendants during the first four months of this year. This corresponds to a rate of 129 cases and 132 defendants for the entire year, and represents a 82% increase in the number of cases handled and a 74% increase in the number of defendants over 2005.

In addition to Baltimore City firearms cases investigated by the ATF and BPD, the USAO has also filed five indictments charging five Baltimore City defendants with firearms offenses investigated by other agencies or that were part of indictments charging narcotics or other offenses. The total number of indictments brought against armed criminals in Baltimore City was therefore 37, charging a total of 38 defendants. Including the 11 resolved or pending FLIP letters, the USAO has handled a total of 48 cases involving 49 armed criminals in Baltimore City during the first four months of this year. This corresponds to a rate of 144 cases and 147 defendants for the entire year, and represents a 38% increase in the number of cases handled and a 20% increase in the number of defendants over 2005.

Violent Repeat Offenders

Under Baltimore EXILE's Violent Repeat Offender (VRO) initiative, a team comprised of representatives of the Division of Parole and Probation of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the United States Probation Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), ATF, BPD, the SAO, and the USAO meet regularly to identify some of the most violent individuals in the city – individuals who belong to violent gangs or organizations operating in Baltimore and individuals who have been charged with, or have been suspects in, shootings and murders. Some of these individuals have pending state gun, drug, or violent crime cases. Many are in violation of their parole or probation. Others have no pending charges but have lengthy and disturbing criminal histories. The members of the Violent Repeat Offender team determine the most effective strategy for arresting and detaining each individual – including violations of parole or probation, aggressive prosecution of pending state or federal charges, or proactive investigations – and monitor the status of the pending case or investigation of each such individual.

Twenty VROs have been pursued during the first four months of 2006. Of those, 13 have been detained or are facing pending charges, as follows:

- two have been detained pursuant to revocations of parole or probation;
- two have been detained following convictions in state court;
- three have been detained based on newly filed federal charges; and
- six have pending charges in state court.

Seven are the subject of ongoing federal investigations.

U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "The Violent Repeat Offenders initiative reflects an extraordinary level of coordination and cooperation at all levels of law enforcement and with state and federal probation. Through this effort, we are focusing state and federal resources on the city's most dangerous criminals."

"Exiled" Defendants

During the first four months of 2006, numerous defendants have been sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment for firearms possession or firearms-related offenses in Baltimore City and have been sent to, or are awaiting designation to, federal prison facilities outside of Maryland to serve their sentences, including the following (press releases relating to each case are included in your press packet):

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Kendall Charles Alexander, Sr. | 2. Leon Baker | 3. Alonzo Briscoe |
| 27 years | 14 years | 17 years |

In Transit	In Transit	Oklahoma City
4. Donte Brown 25 years West Virginia	5. David Burnside 15.7 years In Transit	6. William English 15 years In Transit
7. Corey Grant 20 years New Jersey	8. Harold Greene 17.5 years In Transit	9. Jerome Henderson 15.3 years In Transit
10. Kondwani Martin 10 years In Transit	11. Ian McDonald 20 years New Jersey	12. Maurice Megginson 20 years In Transit
13. Jermaine Mobley 12.6 years In Transit	14. Paul Padgett 10 years Pennsylvania	15. Donald Richardson 13.75 years In Transit
16. Robert Riddick 13.75 years New Jersey	17. Wallace White 19.6 years In Transit	

Training

Prosecutors from the USAO and SAO and ATF agents and BPD task force officers have teamed with lawyers from the Maryland Attorney General's Office to provide legal instruction during the BPD's weekly inservice training for all BPD officers. The USAO is also providing specialized instruction on search warrants and other particular topics.

Outreach/Media

As part of Baltimore EXILE, representatives of Maryland Parole/Probation, the BPD, ATF, SAO, and USAO have joined forces with community activists and groups to conduct "call-in" meetings for repeat offenders in Baltimore City. Maryland Parole/Probation and the BPD identify felons in the area who are on parole or probation for violent crimes or firearms offenses. At these meetings, representatives of the SAO, USAO, ATF, BPD, and Maryland Parole/Probation communicate the message directly and unambiguously that these individuals are going straight back to jail if they commit another offense. Representatives of the BPD's "Get Out of the Game" program and community leaders also address the group, offering housing, educational, and job placement assistance to try to help these repeat offenders turn their lives

around and to help prevent them from re-entering the cycle of violence in their communities. The first EXILE call-in was held in the Northeastern District on March 30, 2006, and the second was held in the Eastern District on May 25, 2006. Similar meetings will be held throughout the city on a regular basis during 2006.

A key component of Baltimore EXILE is an aggressive media/public relations campaign to send a message to criminals and to the broader community that any felon who carries a gun in Baltimore is going to jail – that criminals will do ***hard time for gun crime***. The campaign is designed to alert offenders to the crackdown on gun crime and to energize the community to support law enforcement efforts and, in particular, their local police. The campaign is also designed to encourage citizens to use the EXILE Tipline, (410) 685-GUNS, to report information about guns and drugs to law enforcement anonymously. During the first four months of 2006, Baltimore EXILE has begun airing radio ads and print ads, and television ads are scheduled to begin airing later this year.

Baltimore EXILE is a joint effort by the SAO, BPD, Maryland Parole/Probation, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the United States Marshals Service, ATF, DEA, HIDTA, FBI, ICE, and the USAO.